M.R.O. T—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1566 Press ~~Mis.~~

116-118

Dated 20.12.1861 ~~19~~.

14/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 20th December 1861.

Read the following papers :—

No. 116. From R. W. MEPPEN, Esq., Master Attendant, Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Madras, dated 25th November 1861, No. 315.

I beg to annex copies of correspondence from Mr. Fane, Collector of Vizagapatam, to me, and request you will be pleased to lay the same before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council for His Excellency's consideration.

WALTAIR,
November, 24th.

The letter to be returned.

SIR,

I beg to send herewith an anonymous letter received a few days ago, and forwarded to me by Mr. Knox of Chicacole.

The letter in question you will see is in part a copy of one I wrote to Captain Livingston, when he was staying in your house, the writer therefore must be one of your establishment. Whoever he may be he is evidently mischievously inclined and I shall think it but due to myself to bring him if detected to the notice of Government.

I hope that like all right minded people, you will feel indignant at such cowardly, mean and underhand sort of work, and will therefore use your utmost endeavours to find out the writer.

You must know the hand, and I request you will exert yourself in the matter at once before leaving for Bimlipatam.

I do not know what right Captain Livingston had to give to any one a copy of a private letter from me, and I shall write to-day and demand an explanation from him, as I shrewdly suspect it has been surreptitiously obtained.

(Signed) E. FANE.

To Captain Meppen, Master Attendant, Vizagapatam.

14th November 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am sorry I cannot make you any higher offer than 500 Rupees for each horse landed, as I am acting only under instructions from the Rajah of Vizianagram. I may have been mistaken, but I understood that you would accept 9,000 Rupees for the lot, and wrote accordingly to the Rajah, I think still it would be a very good bargain for you, when the risk you are taking them on to Calcutta, living, &c. &c., are considered and advise you therefore to take the offer.

A man has been instructed to be ready on the beach to take over the horses as they land.

(Signed) E. FANE.

To Captain Livingston, Ship "Royal Saxon."

SIR,

You see Mr. Fane is as bad as Mr. Reade. I wish you will put a stop to this. I hear the Rajah purchased the horses against his will, write and ask him, he will tell all for the sake of his character. I also learn that against his will he is letting out his lands on the Hills for a Coffee plantation, he will tell you who the shareholders are.

Your obedient and humble Servant,

(Signed) AN OPPRESSED.

The copy of the letter is genuine.

25th November 1861.

To E. G. R. FANE, Esq.,

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 24th instant with its enclosure, and in reply beg to state that I will forward the copies of your correspondence to Government. The enclosure is returned as requested.

(Signed) R. W. MEPPEN.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. MEPPEN.
Master Attendant.

No. 117. From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 27th November 1861, No. 1,147.

I have the honor to send herewith a letter marked *A*, I have just received from Captain Meppen the Master Attendant of Vizagapatam, couched in what I consider language unbecoming a subordinate.

2. The letter in question was consequent upon one I wrote to Captain Meppen, calling upon him to discover if possible the author of a certain anonymous letter. This letter was sent to Mr. Knox of Chicacole and by him forwarded to me. The letter which is herewith sent marked B, will itself clearly show the animus of the writer. As the accompaniment of it was the copy of a letter that I had written to Captain Livingston of the "Royal Saxon" who was staying at Captain Meppen's, I suspected that the writer was one of Captain Meppen's establishment, and I accordingly wrote to him and requested he would at once take measures to discover the author. The answer which by the way is no answer, is the letter marked *A*, and which I now complain of. From it, it is clear to me that Captain Meppen himself is the author of the anonymous letter, and several persons to whom I have since shown it could be produced to swear that the handwriting, although feigned, is his. I therefore trust the Government will visit his conduct with their severest displeasure.

3. What Captain Meppen will say to Government in forwarding what he calls the correspondence, I know not, but he evidently thinks there is nothing disgraceful in a Government servant writing anonymous letters against his superior, but which I beg to submit in itself entirely unfits him for employment in the Government service. At any rate I beg that he may at once be removed from office in this District; and I am sure that his removal will be hailed by all classes of the community, both mercantile and of the services, with the greatest satisfaction.

4. The transaction of the horses bought out of the "Royal Saxon," hinted at in the anonymous letter as one forced upon the Rajah of Vizianagram was as follows:

5. The Rajah often mentioned to me as to a friend, that he was very anxious to have some fine carriage horses and riding horses; he is always sending all over India, to Persia, and to other places, but like many others always meeting with disappointments.

6. About three weeks ago, a vessel with 18 horses on board, bound for Calcutta from Australia, put in in distress at Vizagapatam. The Captain applied to me as Magistrate to assist him in getting hay or other forage; none could be had during the rains which were then at their height. I telegraphed to the Rajah at Vizianagram telling him of the capital opportunity there now was of buying horses cheap, and advised him to send over a man to look at them; as the man approved of them, the Rajah telegraphed to me to offer 500 Rupees all round, which I accordingly did. In doing so I wrote the letter, the copy of which is the addenda to the anonymous letter, and sent it to the Captain by the Rajah's own man. I was made the medium of communication between the Captain and the Rajah, merely from the Captain having known me as one anxious to assist him, and as able to interpret to him the wishes of the Rajah. The bargain &c., &c., was entirely the Rajah's and so good a one is it, that a few days ago before several gentlemen he said he would not take 1,000 Rupees and have it off.

7. The coffee planting projects which the anonymous writer would also have believed to be forced upon the Rajah have certainly been concluded by my advice, but the consent of the Rajah was quite spontaneous.

8. On the Galicondah range, the Rajah has an immense tract of country, all adapted for coffee, tea, cotton, wheat, &c. The Rajah himself intimidated by his people who fear the cold has never visited that part of his Estate, and therefore could hardly himself make any suggestions for its amelioration.

9. Being very anxious myself to see a European or East Indian coffee planting community up there, I advised the Rajah to let out the lands on the same terms as the same description of lands are let on the Shervaroys or in the Wynaud.

10. The first applicant was Mr. Meppen, a very energetic good man, the brother of Captain Meppen, and he got from the Rajah a favorable lease of 400 acres of forest land with grazing ground in proportion. The Rajah is going to open out a plantation of a similar size for himself under European Superintendence, and purposes for the other lands getting as many European planters to settle there, as there is forest land for.

11. In thus advising the Rajah, I considered that I was not only carrying out the wishes of Government as regards the encouragement of European settlers, but was also sure that eventually the Rajah himself would be a great gainer, a thought I know he himself entertains and which I hope may be realized.

12. Mr. Meppen the planter is also a shopkeeper at Waltair, and about a year ago he had a quarrel with his brother the Master Attendant; during the quarrel, it was brought to my notice that the Master Attendant had a share in the shop. I was obliged therefore to report the fact to Government, and the Master Attendant got rather severely reprimanded for holding a Government appointment and trading at the same time, and had to give up all connection with the shop. He has ever since however done all he can to injure the prospects of his brother the shopkeeper, and the latter part of the anonymous letter is evidently thus intended; and the writer appears to hope that the favorable grant Mr. Meppen has received might be annulled, on the score of the grant not being willingly given by the Rajah.

13. The Master Attendant's conduct in the matter of the levying certain fees for surveying a vessel belonging to one G. Bavanarraidu, when in reality no survey took place, is already under enquiry by the Principal Sudr Ameen of Vizagapatam. What defence he purposes to set up there, I know not, but the hope that that enquiry might be somewhat stayed by the commotion that he thought the anonymous letter would produce, has been I suspect the primary object with which that letter was written.

No. 118. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1861, No. 1,566.

With the first of the above letters, the Master Attendant at Vizagapatam submits to Government, a copy of a correspondence which has passed between himself and Mr. Fane, Collector of the District, relative to a certain anonymous letter.

2. In the second letter Mr. Fane addresses Government relative to Captain Meppen's conduct in connection with the said letter, and explains his own proceedings in the matter which formed the subject of it.

3. The facts are these, an anonymous letter in a feigned hand was sent to Mr. Knox, Judge of Chicacole, assailing the conduct of Mr. Fane in regard to the purchase of some horses for the Rajah of Vizianagram, stating that the Rajah had purchased these horses against his will, and had also, against his will, been induced to give land for a coffee plantation.

4. The letter was accompanied by a copy of a note which had been written by Mr. Fane to Captain Livingston, the Captain of the vessel in which the horses were brought to Vizagapatam.

5. Mr. Knox forwarded the letter to Mr. Fane, who wrote to Captain Meppen, and requested him to assist him in discovering the author. Mr. Fane considered that the writer must have been one of Captain Meppen's establishment, as Captain Livingston was living with Captain Meppen at the time that the former received Mr. Fane's letter.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
20th December 1861.

6. Captain Meppen has simply forwarded the correspondence to Government, and informed Mr. Fane that he had done so.

7. Mr. Fane also sends up the correspondence in original and accuses Captain Meppen of being the author of the anonymous letter, on the ground mainly that Captain Meppen was cognizant of what had passed between himself and Captain Livingston in regard to the purchase of the horses, that the handwriting of the anonymous letter although feigned, in the opinion of many to whom it has been shown, is that of Captain Meppen, and that the latter part of the letter is designed to injure Captain Meppen's own brother with whom he is on bad terms. Mr. Fane requests that Captain Meppen may be removed from the District.

8. Mr. Fane likewise explains his own proceedings in connection with the purchase of the horses, and the Rajah's grants of land for coffee cultivation.

9. The Government must observe that the reasons adduced by Mr. Fane for fixing the authorship of the anonymous letter on Captain Meppen are altogether insufficient to substantiate the charge, or to warrant any action on the part of Government. They amount to suspicion, but nothing more. The Government can trace no resemblance between the handwriting of the anonymous letter and that of Captain Meppen as shown in the original note transmitted by Mr. Fane. The former is indeed such a hand as any one might write who endeavoured to disguise his handwriting by sloping his letters the wrong way.

10. The Government must at the same time regard Captain Meppen's conduct in the case as the reverse of creditable to him. Mr. Fane had good reasons for supposing that the anonymous letter must have emanated from some one on Captain Meppen's establishment, and on the latter being applied to on the subject, it was clearly a duty which he owed not only to his superior, but to himself, to use his best exertions to detect the author of so disgraceful a production. His neglecting to do so is not only very reprehensible in itself, but of necessity strengthens the suspicions against himself. This will be intimated to him through the Superintendent of Marine.

11. The Government are perfectly satisfied with Mr. Fane's explanation of his proceedings, both in the matter of the purchase of the horses and in that of the coffee plantations.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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25 Novr 1861.

To E. G. R. Fane Esqr

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Yours Obedtly

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Proceedings of the Madras Govern
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Your Obed^t. Humble Servt

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8. Mr. Fane likewise explains his own proceedings in connection with the purchase of the horses, and the Rajah's grants of land for Coffee cultivation -

9. That Captn. Meppen is concerned in the anonymous letter is not at all improbable - He has no good will towards Mr. Fane - Mr. Fane, as he

Note.
Master Attendants are not allowed to trade.

he states, was obliged to report against him some time since for being engaged in trading — He has also lately procured ~~[illegible]~~ his transfer from the Port of Vizagapatam to Bimlipatam much to Captn Meppen's annoyance, and has taken an unfavorable view of Captn Meppen's conduct in the alleged ~~illicit~~ levy of fees for registry, — which charge is now under investigation by Jugga Row, the Principal Sudder Ameen of Vizagapatam, as Commissioner under Act XXXVII of 1850.

illicit

10. At the same time the evidence of Captn Meppen having written the anonymous letter is — as it seems to me — altogether insufficient. There appears to me no resemblance between his handwriting and that of the letter — which is indeed such as any one might write, who tried to disguise his hand by sloping his letters the wrong way.

11. The fact of Captn Livingston having been living in Captn Meppen's house when he received Mr Lane's letter, is certainly suspicious — and the conduct of Captn Meppen in making no endeavour to trace out the letter, if it were not his — is not much to his credit.

It is impossible to fix any guilt on Captn Meppen as to [illegible] [illegible] as ask-ed by Mr Lane — The act of forwarding to Govt the letter is I think pretty [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

With

with the other measures
~~[illegible]~~ that Col. H. is the
author of the letter – I
think the letter would
not have been written
to Capt. S. by Mr F. –

W.H.

I am pretty certain
there is such an
order – & that it is
of recent date

But if in regard
to this point it is
as stated by the Lt
Govt. in para 12.
I do not consider
that Mr Fane has
in any way acted
improperly –

W.H. –

12. With respect to the purchase of the horses I was at first under the impression that there was an order of the Supreme Govt. prohibiting any such proceeding on the part of Govt. Agents or others on behalf of Native Princes – Zemindars &ca. but I can find none – There is an order which I have put up that they are not to sell their own horses or other property to Natives, but that of course is quite a different matter – No one who knows Mr Fane can doubt for a moment that all that he did for the Rajah was from a kind and friendly feeling – but it might have been better perhaps had he simply told the Rajah of the horses being on board the "Royal Saxon" and left him to make his own purchases through his own people.

Did not the old case of Mordaunt Ricketts lead to such an order? E.C.

N.B. – The Rajah is fond of horses and usually has a large number

13. Mr Fane's explanation in regard to the Rajah's Coffee lands is, I submit, quite satisfactory – It is right and proper that a Collector should maintain friendly relations with the great native landed proprietors of his district and advise them

The supposed similarity of handwriting is not visible to me & constitutes no proof – Capt. Sheppard's behaviour in sending on this letter to Govt. & not answering Mr F. makes it desirable that he should be transferred to another place but it will be well to wait for this till the enquiry about the fees is over – I see nothing apt [illegible] a propriety as respects the Coffee land nor as respects the horses. With regard to the letter Mr F. gave advice only & had nothing to do with the money transaction. E.C.

[illegible] in
Mistress of the
case — para 13
Wh
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them in any matters tending to the improvement of their estates, provided of course that he does not take part in the detailed arrangements between them and their grantees or lessees.

JP

Pro 20th Decr 1861.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers

From the Master Attendant Vizagapatam (Hiresuler 25th November 1861 No. 315.)

From the Collector of — do — (" " 27th " " No. 1147.)

Order thereon / 20th December 1861 No. 1566

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To The Collector of Vizagapatam
Superintendent of Marine } Despd 21st

Pros of Govt Mas

Judl 1861. Department.

No. 1566.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 20th December 1861

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